



Above: Nicholas Johnson, 8, prepares to rappel down the wall during the Cub Scout adventure day at Schofield Dec. 29. Nicholas is the son of Sergeant 1st Class Jack Johnson, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Right: Jacob Bredenkamp, 7, climbs across a rope bridge over a streambed. Jacob is the son of Lt. Col. Brad Berdenkamp, Joint Interagency Task Force West.



Photos by Army Lt. Col. Bob Hoelscher

## Hickam Cub Scout's learn values during Schofield Days

By Army Lt. Col. Bob Hoelscher  
Cub Scout committee chairman

Teaching young boys the value of courage, trust, self-confidence and physical fitness are some of the purposes of cub scouting.

Those values were reinforced for the Cub Scouts of Hickam's Packs 197 and 297 while attending the 36th annual "Schofield Days" held in the mountains above Wahiawa at the 25th Infantry Division's Air Assault School Dec. 29.

These 70 scouts, ranging from 7 to 11 years

old, along with 1,000 other Oahu-based Cub Scouts, had the opportunity to build character, learn about the Army, and share an exciting and fun experience with their friends.

Supported by volunteers of the 29th Corps Support Group, the Air Assault School, and the U.S. Coast Guard, the scouts spent part of the morning learning the basics of rappelling. This included some of the more technical skills such as tying their own Swiss seats, attaching the carabiner, and adjusting their rate of descent down a 25-foot tall, 45-degree wall.

Later in the morning, the soldiers taught the

scouts how to cross a 50-foot long one-rope bridge suspended over a streambed. This challenge required the scouts to pull themselves along the rope hand-over-hand either while hanging underneath the rope or balancing on top of the rope ranger style.

The scouts were also able to learn about and handle numerous U.S. military weapons ranging from M4 carbines, to M-249 squad automatic weapons, and even an M-2 tripod-mounted .50 caliber machine gun. For the scouts whose parents are deployed, this experience provided them a unique opportunity to see some

of the tools their parents use as service members serving their nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

The soldiers also taught the scouts how to camouflage themselves; an event every scout took great advantage of. They looked like walking trees.

To top off the morning, the scouts enjoyed the not-so-luxurious ride of the Army's newest cargo truck, the light and medium tactical vehicle. The soldiers were nice enough to drive through every mud puddle, rut, and hole along the dirt road. The boys truly enjoyed that ride.